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## BRIEFER ARTICLES.

**Anemonella thalictroides** Spach, Hist. Nat. Veg. vii. 239.—We adopt this genus and Spach's name for it. The little plant has given much trouble, having the leaves of a *Thalictrum*, except that the cauline are whorled-involucrate, the only point in which it really accords with *Anemone*, while the terminal depressed-sessile stigma is foreign to both these genera. Spach is the first to characterize the genus, though even he did not rightly describe the stigmas; and his name is excellent. Much earlier than this, F. Hofmeister, in the Regensburg Flora, gives the names *Syndesmon thalictroides* and *Syndesmon tuberosum* as imposed by Count Hofmannsegg, but no character is indicated, and the two plants are not of the same genus. The latter species is one of a group of Asiatic and European species of *Thalictrum* (‡ COROLLINA of Boissier), which, indeed, have large and petaloid sepals and short erect stamens, but all have the unilateral stigma of *Thalictrum*. This is as true of *T. orientale* Boiss., as of the rest, which this author well describes as with "*stigmatе oblongo recto*," but Lecoyer incorrectly as with "*stigmatе minutissimo*," probably from the fruit. We await the concluding part of Lecoyer's monograph of *Thalictrum*, which should give some needed explanations. The first part is in Bull. Soc. Roy. Bot. Belg. xxiv, 1885. On page 223 it describes *T. anemonoides* as with "*stigmatе minutissimo punctiformi*," which applies only to the remains of this organ upon the fruit; but the next page comes nearer to the mark with "*stigmatе ordinairement sessile, disciforme, disposé presque horizontalement au sommet de l'ovaire*." Then it is large and broad.

We may note that the specimen which M. Lecoyer describes at the close of his account of the above species, "*dont les caractères distinctifs ne concordant pas*," no doubt belongs to *Isopyrum biternatum*.—A. GRAY.

**Edmond Boissier**.—M. de Candolle has just published a biographical sketch of this distinguished botanist, who died the 25th of last September, at his country residence in Switzerland. Dr. Gray has also given a brief outline of his life and work in the *Am. Journal of Science* for January. Both of these gentlemen knew Boissier personally, and none could be more competent to speak of him. He was born in Geneva the 10th of May, 1810, of a family from whom he inherited an independent fortune. Instead of devoting his life to luxurious idleness, he determined to enter upon some profession, and being in Geneva, with the De Candolles, it was but natural that his choice should fall upon botany. His attention was directed entirely to systematic work, chiefly in the region of the Mediterranean and the East. In 1837 he collected in Spain, and between 1839 and 1845 he published his *Voyage Botanique dans le midi de l'Espagne*, two quarto volumes, containing 180 plates. In 1842 he traveled with his wife in Greece, Syria and Egypt. In 1849, while traveling in Spain, he lost his wife from typhoid fever, and the rest of his life was spent in the shadow of this sorrow and afflicted by his own bodily ailments. Between 1842 and 1855 appeared his *Diagnoses Plantarum Orientalium Novarum*. In 1845 was completed his monograph of *Plumbaginaceae*, while in 1862 appeared his great monograph of the genus *Euphorbia*, published in De Candolle's *Prodro-*